

Appl. No. 10/663629
Reply to Office action of June 29, 2004

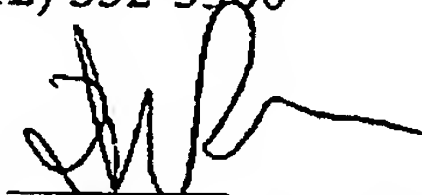
REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested. Claims 1-6, and 8-23 are pending. Claim 7 has been cancelled. Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of allowable claim 7. The rejections based on Nakamura and Pechini are rendered moot. Applicants do not concede the correctness of the rejections. Independent method claim 16 has been amended to track claim 1. Applicants request that claims 16-23 be reinstated for allowance with claims 1-6 and 8-15. Favorable reconsideration in the form of a Notice of Allowance is requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, MN 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: September 24, 2004

By 
Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DMueller:lad